

## **Junta postpone quarterly meeting; Monk protests continue**

Mungpi

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September 20, 2007 – With Buddhist monks continuing their protests, the Burmese junta has postponed its quarterly meeting, originally scheduled to be held on September 24, said a source close to the military.

While the reason for the postponement remains unclear, observers believe the junta may have been forced to postpone the meeting due to the ongoing protests, which have spread to many parts of the country. However other sources say the postponement could be related to the sudden death of Major General Tin Tun, the twin brother of the junta's Prime Minister Lieutenant General Soe Win.

Major General Tin Tun, director of the directorate of military engineering, who was also rumored to have donated bone marrow to his twin brother, reportedly died yesterday. However the cause of his death is still unknown.

The junta's military commanders from around the country, including regional commanders, light infantry division commanders, military operation command commanders and tactical operation command commanders, left for the quarterly meeting in Naypyitaw on Wednesday. However they must now head back to their posts following the announcement to postpone the meeting, said independent Burmese analyst Win Min.

"This is the first time since 1988 that this meeting is postponed due to protests," Win Min said, adding the postponement shows that the junta is worried about the continuing monk demonstrations getting out of control if regional and division commanders will not be at their posts.

Monks in Burma, since Tuesday, have been staging protests and rallies in many parts of Burma, including: Rangoon, Sittwe in Arakan State, and Kyaukpadaung, Chauk, and Pakhokku in central Burma's Magwe Division.

Enraged monks in Sittwe yesterday reportedly seized a government office for at least 4 hours, after the authorities used teargas to disperse protesting monks the previous day.

Meanwhile, there are wild speculations making their rounds among observers that astronomically the health of Prime Minister Soe Win is in danger following the death of his twin brother Tin Tun, who had earlier gone to Singapore for treatment but died in Burma on Wednesday.

Soe Win has also been receiving medical treatment in Singapore.

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